

## **Brevard County School District Bylaws & Policies**

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### **9800 – CHARTER SCHOOLS**

Florida Statute 1002.33 gives the Brevard County School Board the authority to sponsor a charter school within the county over which it has jurisdiction. The initial term of a granted charter shall be five (5) years. In order to facilitate access to long-term financial resources for charter schools construction, charter schools that are operated by a municipality or other public entity as provided by law are eligible for up to a fifteen-year (15) charter, subject to approval by the district school board. A charter lab school is eligible for a charter for a term of up to fifteen (15) years. In addition, to facilitate access to long-term financial resources for charter school construction, charter schools that are operated by a private, not-for-profit, s. 501(c)(3) status corporation are eligible for up to a fifteen-year (15) charter, subject to approval by the district school board.

A charter may be renewed, provided that a program review demonstrates that the school met established criteria and that none of the grounds for non-renewal have been documented. In order to facilitate long-term financing for charter school construction, a charter school operating for a minimum of two (2) years and demonstrating exemplary academic programming and fiscal management are eligible for a fifteen year (15) charter renewal. Such long term charter is subject to annual review and may be terminated during the term of the charter. The fifteen-year (15) charter renewal shall be granted to a charter school that has received a school grade of "A" or "B" pursuant to section 1008.34 in three (3) of the past four (4) years and is not in a state of financial emergency or deficit position. Such long-term charter is subject to annual review and may be terminated during the term of the charter.

The Sponsor may choose not to renew or may terminate the charter for any of the following grounds:

1. Failure to participate in the state's education accountability system or failure to meet the requirements for student performance as specified in the charter.
2. Failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management.
3. Violation of law.
4. Other good cause shown.

A charter may be terminated immediately if the sponsor determines that good cause has been shown or the health, safety, or welfare of the students is threatened. The Sponsor shall notify in writing the charter school's governing

body, the charter school principal, and the Department of Education if a charter is immediately terminated. The Sponsor shall clearly identify the specific issues that resulted in immediate termination and provide evidence of prior notification of issues resulting in the immediate termination when appropriate.

### **Application Procedure**

An application for a new charter school may be made by an individual, teachers, parents, a group of individuals, a municipality, or a legal entity organized under the laws of this state. A person or entity wishing to open a charter school shall prepare an application that:

1. Demonstrates how the school will use the guiding principles and meet the statutorily defined purpose of a charter school.
2. Provides a detailed curriculum plan that illustrates how students will be provided services to attain the Sunshine State Standards.
3. Contains goals and objectives for improving student learning and measuring that improvement. These goals and objectives must indicate how much academic improvement students are expected to show each year, how success will be evaluated, and the specific results to be attained through instruction.
4. Describes the reading curriculum and differentiated strategies that will be used for students reading at grade level or higher and a separate curriculum, and strategies for students who are reading below grade level.
5. Contains an annual financial plan for each year requested by the charter for operation of the school for up to 5 years. This plan must contain anticipated fund balances based on revenue projections, a spending plan based on projected revenues and expenses, and a description of contents that will safeguard finances and projected enrollment trends.

In order to ensure fiscal responsibility, an application for a charter school shall include a full accounting of expected assets, a projection of expected sources and amounts of income, including income derived from projected student enrollments and from community support, and an expense projection that includes full accounting of the costs of operation, including start-up costs.

The School Board shall receive and review all applications for a charter school that are received on or before the designated statutory date of each calendar year for charter schools to be opened at the beginning of the schools district's next school year, or to be opened at a time agreed to by the applicant and the School Board.

The School Board shall by a majority vote approve or deny an application no later than sixty (60) calendar days after the application is received, unless the School Board and the applicant mutually agree in writing to temporarily postpone the vote to a specific date, at which time the School Board shall by a majority vote approve or deny the application. If the School Board fails to act on the application, an applicant may appeal to the State Board of Education. If an application is denied, the School Board shall, within ten (10) calendar days, articulate in writing the specific reasons for its denial of the charter application and shall provide the letter of denial and supporting documentation to the applicant and to the Department of Education supporting those reasons.

Applications shall be submitted to:

The Office of School Choice  
Brevard County Public Schools  
2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way  
Viera, Florida 32940-6699

### **Charter**

The terms and conditions for the operation of a charter school shall be set forth by the Sponsor and the applicant in a written contractual agreement, called a charter. The Sponsor shall not impose unreasonable rules or regulations that violate the intent of giving charter schools greater flexibility to meet the educational goals. The Sponsor shall have sixty (60) days to provide an initial proposed charter contract to the charter school. The applicant and the Sponsor shall have seventy-five (75) days thereafter to negotiate and notice the charter contract for final approval by the Sponsor unless both parties agree to an extension. The proposed charter contract shall be provided to the charter school at least seven (7) calendar days prior to the date of the meeting at which the charter is scheduled to be voted upon by the Sponsor.

1002.33(5)(a)(1)  
1002.33(7)(a)(12)  
1002.33(7)(b)(1)  
1002.33(7)(b)(2)  
1002.33(8)(a)  
1002.33(8)(d)  
1002.33(3)(a)  
1002.33(6)(a)  
1002.33(6)(b)(2)  
1002.33(6)(b)  
1002.33(6)(b)(3)  
1002.33(6)(i)